Panchayati Raj

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
13 NOV 1962
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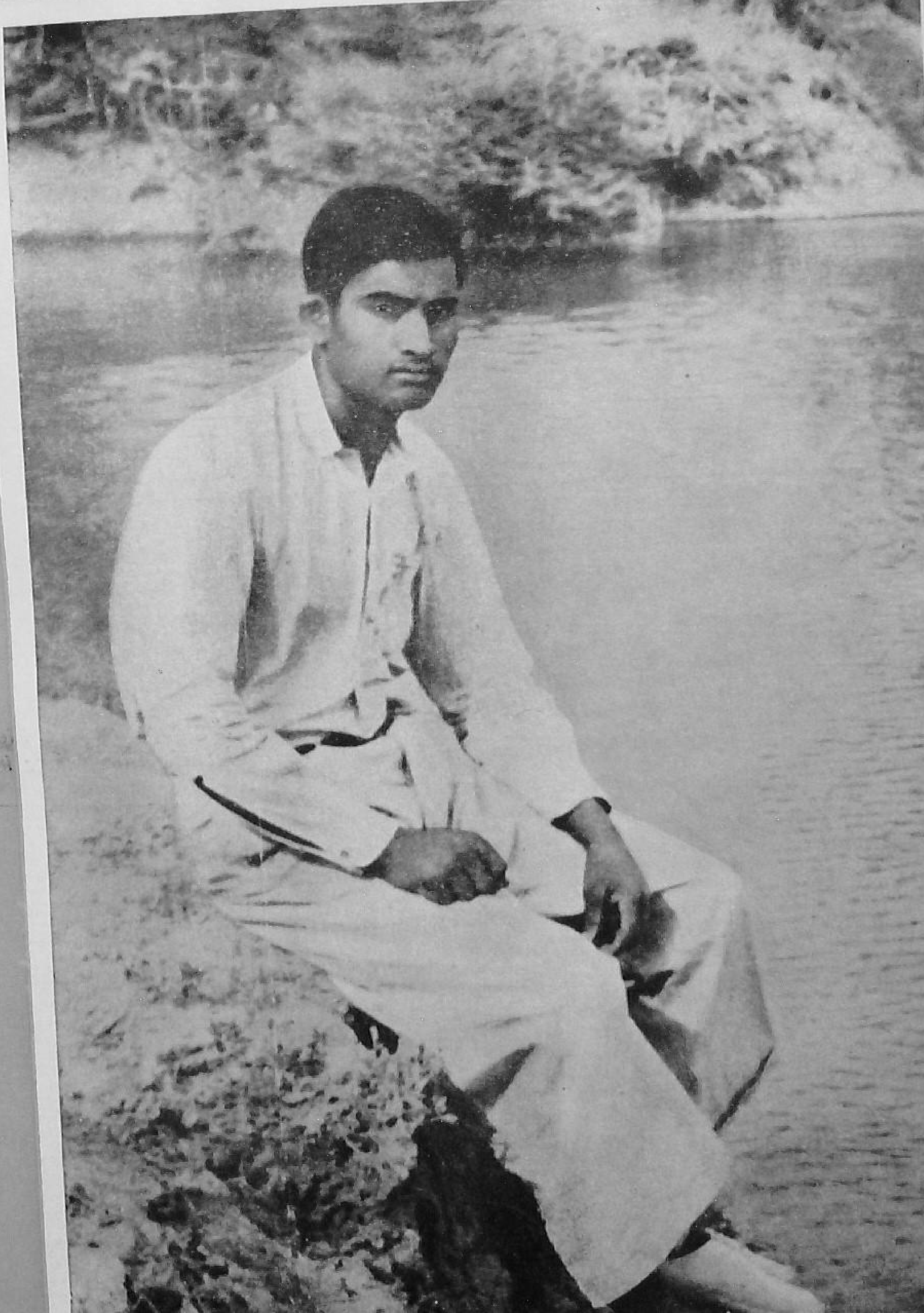
RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE

NOVEMBER 1962



RATI RAM, *a young lad of sixteen of village Garha in Uttar Pradesh. who along with other members of the Youth Club accomplished the hazardous task of cleaning the village tank of an obnoxious weed called* **'Jal Khumbi'**. *The weed had made the tank a death trap in which several cattle and a child had died.* (For fuller story please see inside.)

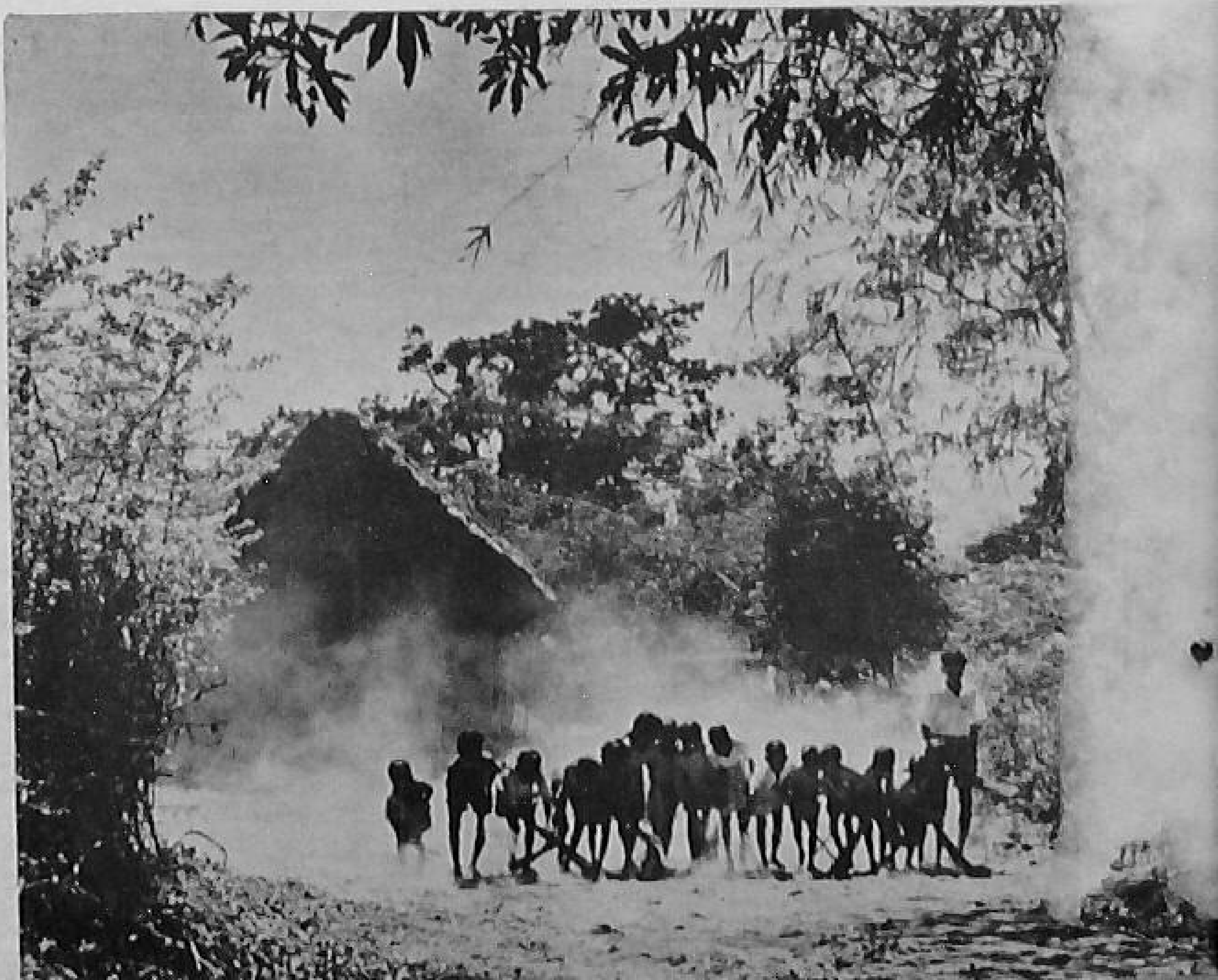
A Balwadi run in Navagaon village in Gujarat. Grinding of flour may be a drudgery to the grown-ups but not so to the kids who take pleasure in doing the job.

The members of the Youth Club, Haldwani, taking part in P. T. which helps them to grow up into healthy, smart and disciplined citizens.

LEARNING WHILE WORKING

Kitchen-gardening provides both fun and vegetables to the young children.

A group of children taking part in a cleanliness drive launched in a village in Orissa.



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LETTERS

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
2-22
13 NOV 1962
RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING

PLEA FOR UNANIMOUS ELECTIONS

Sir,

Our constitution envisages village Panchayats to work as units of self-government. But are they really functioning as such ? The answer is by no means in the affirmative. In some States there are loud complaints against them. In Uttar Pradesh, especially there is much dissatisfaction against the way Panchayats are working. The last Panchayat elections held in U.P. may serve as an eye-opener. Communalism and casteism appeared in their worst forms. There were cases of murders, riots and what not.

But have the Panchayats really failed ? Did the fathers of the Constitution misfire when they advocated the establishment of Panchayats ? Is the Panchayat idea foreign to the temperament of the village folk? Questions like these are agitating the minds of the well-wishers of the country.

Historically, Panchayats are not exotic to the Indian soil. They did exist and function effectively in ancient India. Even now some of the caste Panchayats are well-known for their rigorous discipline.

Then, what is wrong with them now ? The fact is that they were deliberately discouraged in the past by the foreign rulers. Psychologists say that organs cease functioning if they are not used for a long time. The rural population has lost this valuable legacy by sheer non-use. Now it has come back to them in the same way as Indian cotton has returned to villages from the textile mills of Lancashire. The effect is obvious. Instead of considering the Panchayats as a means of service to the village, the villagers think them to be political cockpits whose common features are ballots and breaking of heads. However, frustration and disappointment is unnecessary. Panchayat like every other institution is built up gradually on tradition and convention. To begin with, the political parties should come to a gentleman's agreement that Panchayat elections would be fought on non-party lines. To ensure this, concerted efforts should be made to elect the office-bearers unanimously. There should be a panel of such villagers as have rendered useful service to the village in the field of education, co-operation and social service. It should be prepared strictly on the basis of present service, not on the mere promise of future service. Out of this panel, the various members and office-bearers should be chosen by lot.

Such elections will have many advantages. Village folks are fatalists by temperament and training. They will accept the results without murmur. Election petitions will be a thing of the past. There will be no bitterness, no rancour and no enmity after the elections are over. There will be no slogan, no propaganda, no demonstration, no whispering campaign on the basis of casteism and communalism. There will be only one healthy rivalry, that is doing the real, solid and constructive service of the village.

1-9-62 Yours etc.,
Bhrigu Ashram, R. N. LAL.
BALLIA (U.P.)

* * *

THE REJECTED STUFF?

Sir,

I AM placing the following facts for consideration:

1. For a Gram Sevak, it is necessary to have 2 years' training course after Matriculation. But to become a Lower Division Clerk, no such extra training is required. But the Gram Sevak and the Lower Division Clerk are supposed to be in the same pay scale.

2. Generally, a Lower Division Clerk is promoted as Upper Division Clerk after he has put in five years' service. But a Gram Sevak may not get the selection grade even after ten years. In fact, no time-limit of his service has been prescribed for his promotion.

3 A school teacher is permitted to appear privately in any university examination after having passed which he can be promoted as senior teacher. No such facilities exist for a Gram Sevak. The chances for training in Rural Institutes are few and far between.

4. There are fixed duty hours (not exceeding 8 hours) for a clerk or a teacher. But a Gram Sevak is supposed to be on duty all the 24 hours not excepting Sundays or even holidays.

5. The duties of a Gram Sevak are not limited to one or two aspects only. He is a multipurpose worker. Hence he hardly gets any offtime when he is not burdened with one duty or the other. On the other hand, other government servants have got only set duties to perform.

In view of the above disabilities and difficulties that the post of a Gram Sevak involves, is it any wonder that the first choice of today's young man is to get the job of a clerk failing which he would like to be a sub-inspector of co-operative or veterinary stockman or a school teacher and would accept the job of a Gram Sevak only when he is rejected from all quarters.

How far will such frustrated and rejected stuff be able to deliver the goods as Gram Sevaks who are supposed to be the foundation-pillars of all development activities ?

It is high time that the Gram Sevaks' job is made lucrative enough so as to attract bright intelligent young men who have a flair for service in the rural areas.

29-8-62 Yours etc.,
Satyanarain Sharma,
V.L.W.

RAJASTHAN

* * *

A USEFUL SUGGESTION

Sir,

SINCE MY letter was published in 'Panchayati Raj', May issue under the heading "Needed Better Co-operation", I have come to know of a specific instance in which the farmers actually derived lot of benefit and at the same time saved considerable money to the Government. In the past, the Peshwas had built a Dharan (reservoir) about 2 miles away from village Naraingaon, Tehsil Junar in District Poona in Maharashtra. The reservoir is about 2 furlongs in length, 40 ft. wide and about 20 ft. deep. In course of time, it became silted and only ankle deep water could be stored in it. The silt-clearance being a costly affair, the Government had been postponing it every year. In 1948, some thousands of rupees were sanctioned for the silt-clearance. A wise Government official deputed for the clearance job, encouraged the villagers to take away the soil from the "Dharan" for putting it as manure in their fields. The farmers liked the idea and cleared off the whole "Dharan" carrying away cart loads of soil from it. They reaped a bumper harvest that

(*Continued on page* 5)

YOUTH SHOWS THE WAY

THIS IS the story of a young lad, Shri Rati Ram of village Garha, Etawah District in Uttar Pradesh,—of how young leadership is emerging in the countryside and becoming trained to assume responsibilities in the future. The problem of the success of Panchayati Raj is the problem of having a sound village leadership. People of the older generation with their mature wisdom and experience can no doubt, provide a good leadership. But they have their own limitations. Some of them are so deeply rooted in the past, that they find it somewhat difficult to adjust themselves to the modern and progressive outlook. The youth, though somewhat raw and inexperienced, do not suffer from the inhibition of orthodox conventionalism that the older generation is afflicted from. Carried on the wings of idealism and unbounded zeal, the youth may reach the heights which the elders might only dream.

SOCIAL EVILS REMOVED

Rati Ram had not crossed his teens when he assumed the leadership of the Yuvak Mangal Dal or the youth club of his village. The inhabitants of this village belong to the Lodi community. They had been addicted to the vice of gambling, drinking and quarrelling amongst themselves on the slightest pretext. Instances of stealing fodder and cutting the crops of the neighbour were frequent. They would go to the law courts for petty matters and thus litigation had gripped them in its tentacles. Young Rati Ram saw to it early that if he as well as the other members of the Yuvak Mangal Dal were to achieve anything, they must first rid the village people of their social evils. Consequently, the members of the Mangal Dal made it their top priority business to eradicate the vices of gambling and drinking from the village, in the first instance. They also brought to bear pressure on their parents not to take any dispute to the law courts. They started literacy classes in the village. In course of time, not only did they make forty adults literate, but succeeded to a great extent in purging the village atmosphere of the social vices in which the people had been steeped for a long time. The villagers gradually gave up drinking and gambling also. Even though they did not completely give up quarrelling, they never went to the law courts.

THE DEATH TRAP

Rati Ram and his companions had by and by succeeded in winning the confidence of the elderly people. But what endeared them to the villagers and secured for them a lasting place in their hearts was an incident relating to the village tank. As a result of continued negligence and carelessness of the villagers, the tank had fallen into disuse and was more of a nuisance than of help. It was overgrown with a weed known as 'Jal Khumbi', which strikes deep roots into the bottom soil. Once 'Jal Khumbi' takes possession of a water reservoir, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to dislodge it from there. The weed spreads its tentacles far and wide so as to completely overshadow the watery surface. Several cattle had died while drinking water in the tank. Therefore, now no cattle did ever approach it for fear lest it should not be able to come out of the closely knit texture of the weed. During the Summer, as the water of the tank receded leaving the excessive vegetative growth to dry up and decompose, an offensive smell and a sickening atmosphere prevailed over the entire village. It had become a breeding ground of mosquitoes. Malaria was widespread. The villagers had got fed up with it, but they suffered it helplessly. The cup of their miseries became full one day when a small boy who was playing near the bank of the dreaded tank, slipped into it accidentally and was drowned. None dared even to search for his dead body for the horrible

Shri Rati Ram pointing out to the Development Commissioner and other officials of Uttar Pradesh the dreaded 'Jal Khumbi' which the members of the Youth Club had cleaned from the tank.

'Jal Khmubi' was here to ensnare anyone into the trap of death.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

This was a challenge to the spirit of dash, courage and determination of which stuff the youths are generally made. The youth in Rati Ram was stirred. He called upon the members of the Mangal Dal to rise up to the occasion and accept the mighty challenge of the vicious tank. In his characteristic way, he remarked, "What is the good of our being members of the Mangal Dal, if we cannot bring 'mangal' *i.e.* welfare to the village. Remember the slogan of our club which enjoins upon us to be honest, healthy, enterprising and worthy citizens. Service of others is our motto." Someone from amongst the members present cast his doubts on their capacity to undertake such a risky job. Snapped back Rati Ram, "Was not the Everest looked upon as the unconquerred peak till Tensingh and his colleagues proved it otherwise? What can stand against the mighty will of man? Even the turbulent rivers and lofty mountains are tamed by the skill and perseverance of man." This heartened all his other colleagues who said with one voice, "We take a vow either to clear the tank of the 'Jal Khumbi' or we shall perish in the attempt." Excitement ran high. Rati Ram took the lead and jumped into the tank. The other boys also took off their clothes and followed suit. Soon the campaign to weed out the 'Jal Khumbi' got to a brisk start. Meanwhile, someone went to the village and informed the elders of what the members of the Mangal Dal were doing. The elder people were taken aback. They could not believe that the youngsters would be so daring as to attempt the hazardous task of uprooting the malignant 'Jal Khumbi' from the bottom of the tank. They began to converge on the bank of the dreaded tank. The womenfolk also came shrieking and crying to the scene of operation. They were filled with awe and horror when they saw the youngsters diving deep into the tank and uprooting khumbis one by one. Nothing deterred them. Sometimes a fellow would get entangled into the web of Khumbis, but soon others would come to his rescue. The campaign went on for almost the whole day. The sky was overcast with the crimson hue of the setting sun. But the network of Khumbis lay sprawling all over the pond. Only a slice had been cleared. The boys at last came out of the tank with their drooping limbs. Everyone advised them not to pursue the wild goose chase anymore. The elders argued, "It is our good fortune that this day has passed off without any incident. But who knows what is in store tomorrow or the day after?" Rati Ram asked his companions whether or not they would like to give up the campaign in despair. "No." came the emphatic reply from all his other young associates. They told their elders in unmistakable terms that they would take rest only after they had cleared the tank of the last vestige of Khumbi.

As the next day dawned, the young people were again ready to participate with redoubled zeal in the royal battle against Khumbis. The campaign went on ceaselessly for three days when at last the tank became abso-

The Youth Club members working in the kitchen-garden laid out in the one-acre plot donated by the Panchayat to the Youth Club.

lutely clear of the obnoxious weed. Everyone heaved a sigh of relief. The elderly people were full of admiration for the extraordinary spirit of courage and dedicated service displayed by Rati Ram and his young associates. In a corner sat the old father of the little boy who had lost his life in the pond. He was pensively looking at the uprooted Khumbis which now lay prostrate before him but which only a few days ago had proved the fatal snare for his beloved child. Rati Ram fell on his knees before the old man and said, "Forgive us that we could not clear the tank earlier; otherwise the precious life of your dear child would not have been lost." The old man felt that something was choking him from within. However, controlling his emotions, he remarked, "Never Mind! After all, the children of the village are all my children. I am happy that you have at last taken a proper revenge against the Khumbi, —the killer of my son! It would no longer be able to take the toll of any more life in this village."

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Soon after, everybody went home feeling very much relieved at what the youngsters had achieved for the welfare of the village, as a whole. But Rati Ram was still not satisfied. He was thinking all the time of how to deal with the defeated Khumbis in a proper manner. He thought of a plan and discussed it with the members of the Mangal Dal. They all liked it. It was to give a deep burial to the Khumbis so that rich compost manure could be prepared for the vegetable demonstration plots maintained by the Dal.

The village panchayat, in appreciatoin of the splendid service rendered by the boys, allotted to the Mangal Dal, one acre plot of land near the pond itself. The members of the Mangal Dal have since laid out demonstration plots of vegetable cultivation. By utilising the rich compost of Khumbis, fertilisers and improved seeds, the young boys have succeeded in getting luxuriant crops of vegetables. They have also laid out demonstration plots for Kharif and Rabi crops thus guiding the village farmers into improved methods of farming through practical example.

The Mangal Dal got three of its members trained in the art of rearing silk worms. They have benefited to the tune of Rs. 500. Several other landless labourers in the village have now taken to rearing of silk worms. As a result of this industry, they have earned a net profit of three to four thousand rupees a year.

The Yuvak Mangal Dal under the inspiring leadership of Rati Ram is thus playing a very useful role in the socio-economic life of the village. And in the process, the younger generation is being trained to fulfill with credit any job whether at the farm, or industry or village leadership as and when he or she will be called upon to do so in place of the older people.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page 2*)

year and the Government was saved from incurring a huge expenditure.

The rainy season is now already over. It will be nice if the Panchayats were allowed by the P.W.D. to carry out such fertilised soil from spots which are required to be cleaned. And I am sure there will be many such places in every State. The useful idea can be put across to the people and the Panchayats through radio programmes and other publicity media.

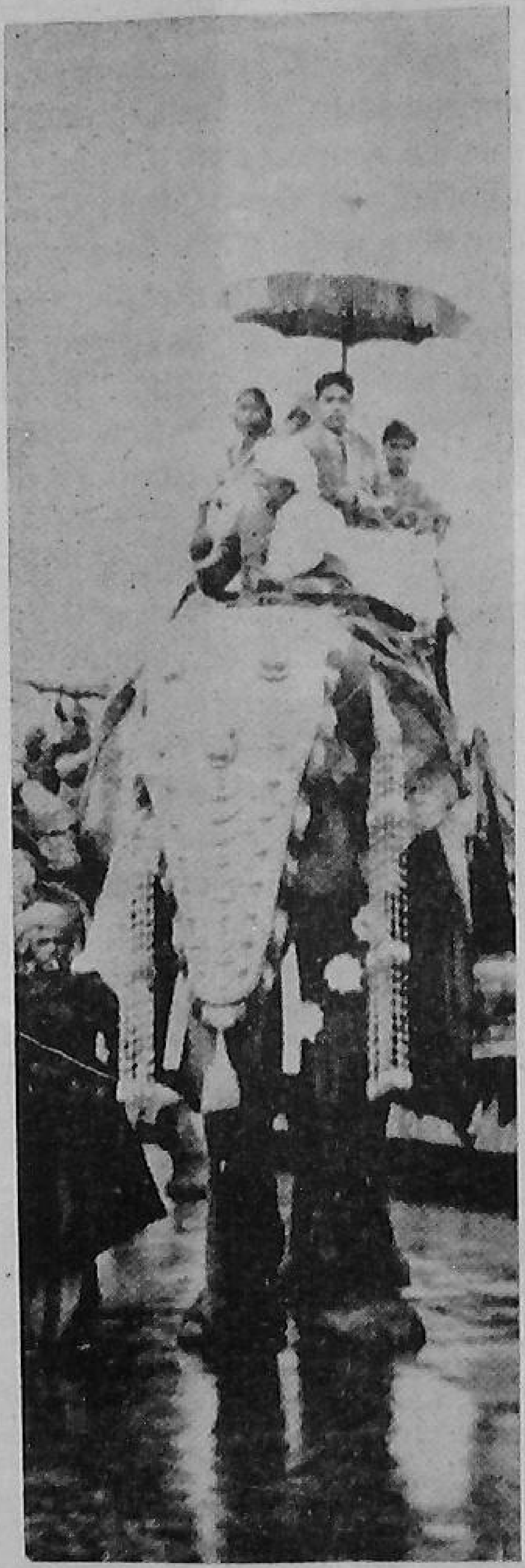
29th July '62 Yours etc.,
Bhopal. R. S. Bunthiya

Our Young Heroes Of 1961

THE INDIAN Council for Child Welfare instituted in 1957 the National Award Scheme to honour the children of the country for showing outstanding courage, honesty and selfless service. The awards are in the form of silver medals given by the respective States at befitting occasions like the Children's Day on 14th November. On Republic Day of the forthcoming year, the awardees participate in the Parade, leading a contingent of school children.

All children up to the age of 16 irrespective of caste, creed or colour, from the remotest hamlet to the largest metropolis are eligible for the award. Branches of the I.C.C.W. in the States and Union Territories are informed about the award. Instances of meritorious cases are screened by the Sub-Committees of the State Councils and Administration and deserving cases are recommended to the I.C.C.W. Headquarters where further necessary scrutiny is done. Two awards are specified for each State or Administration, one for outstanding service and the other for outstanding courage.

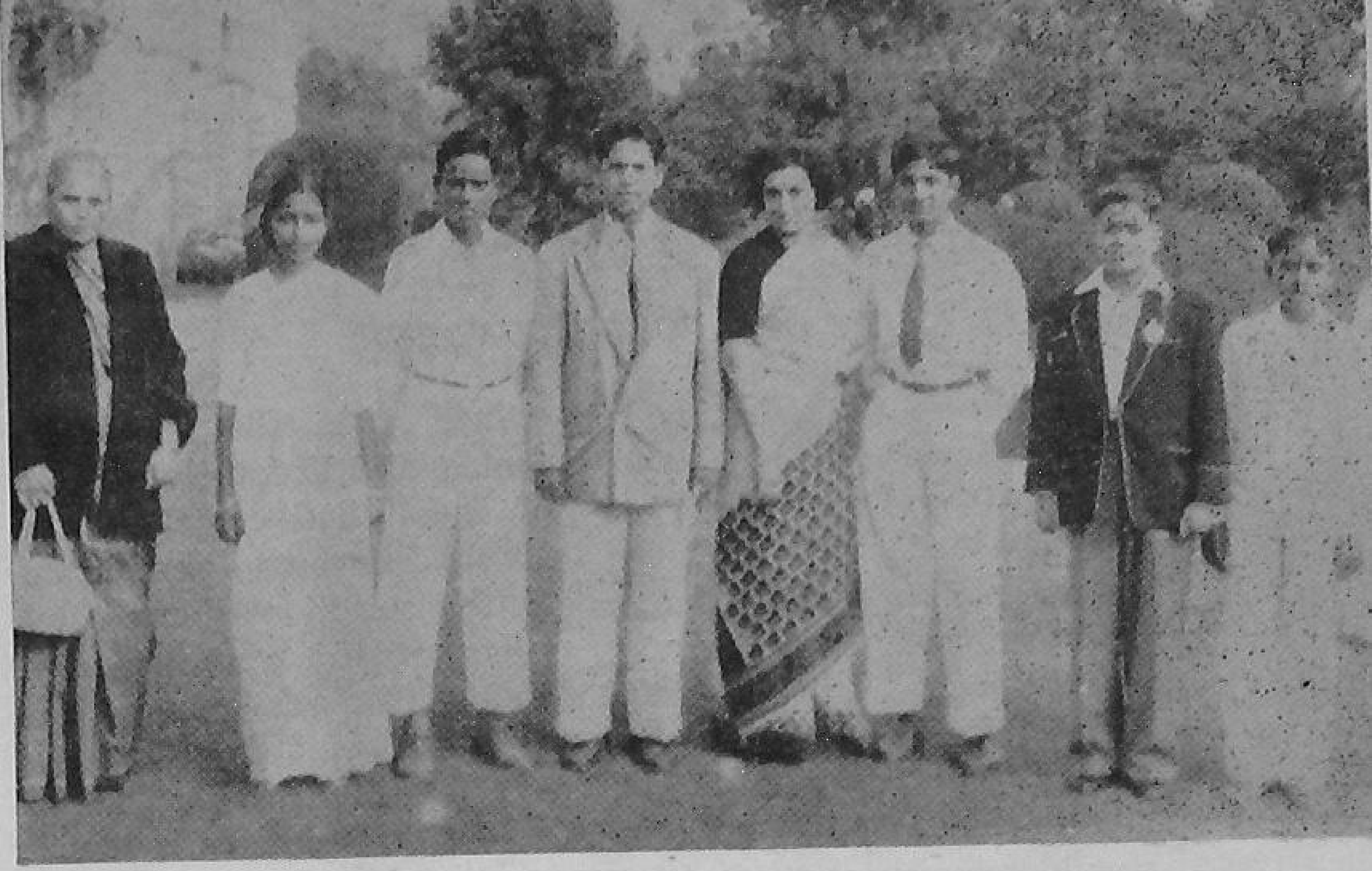
Results of the award for the current year will be announced shortly. There must be many cases of honest and brave service rendered by the simple and sometimes even uneducated children in the rural areas. It is for our Panchayats and Panchayat Samities to bring such cases to the notice of the State branches of the I.C.C.W. so that the rural children find their due place of honour under the scheme. A short account of the heroic deeds of service rendered by the eight children who were given the award last year is given below:



Left: *Kumari Bishnupriya (Orissa)*
Right: *Kumar Narasimha Rao (Andhra)*
Middle: *Kumar Thomas George (Kerala)*

KUMAR NARASIMHA RAO: He is now about 15 years, and at present a first year student in the Guntur Medical College. He is from Eluru, West Godavari. He was the talk of the town for several months. He leapt into a house engulfed in flames, and extricated a helpless old woman, who was shrieking for assistance, while the standers-by dared not risk themselves into the flames, and stood looking on helplessly. Narasimha Rao's initiative and promptness saved the 60 years old woman. He came out unscathed from the fire except for minor injuries and burns.

KUMAR THOMAS GEORGE: He is a 16 years old youth from Nariapuran, Kerala. While boating at Thalavady, he saw bubbles appearing over the surface near the spot where a child of 2 years had been previously standing. Without any thought of self-preservation, he dived into ten feet deep water, rescued the little one and restored it to his mother.



Second from left : *Kumari Bishnupriya* (Orissa)
Third ,, ,, : *Kumar Abdul Hamid* (Orissa)
Fourth ,, ,, : *Kumar Thomas George* (Kerala)
First from right : *Kumar M. Nethaji* (Madras)
Second ,, ,, : *Kumar Prakash Rao Patil* (Maharashtra)
Third ,, ,, : *Kumar Narasimha Rao* (Andhra)

KUMARI BISHNUPRIYA: She is a 16 year old destitute girl of the Utkal Balashram, Berhampur. She saw a group of women students of a Training School for Women stepping into a tank in the hostel premises. Unaware of the depths, they slipped into the water. Seeing their plight, she immediately jumped into the tank and dragged out two of the victims. She turned back and after half an hour's struggle she rescued the third one also.

KUMARI KUNTI DEVI: A girl of 10 years, of Gorumahishani, Dist. Mayurbhanj, Orissa, she displayed commendable courage in rescuing her little brother, who was playing on the rails, while an oncoming train approached them. Kumari Kunti, within an instant pushed him off to safety, but could not save herself. The train ran over her legs, the right leg was severed and the left crushed. Being deaf and dumb, she could only see the train, but could not hear the roar of the engine. She is being rehabilitated through the assistance of the Red Cross and is being fitted with artificial limbs.

KUMAR ABDUL HAMID: He is a student of the Christ Collegiate School, Cuttack. While swimming in the Mahanadi river, he saw an eight year old girl slip into the water. Her two sisters aged 16 and 22 jumped in to rescue her but were interlocked under water. The father and a friend stood helplessly in horror. But Hamid dived into the river and after strenuous efforts, succeeded in bringing to the surface the three girls in an unconscious state. The father and the daughters overwhelmed with gratitude, offered him a reward of Rs. 100 which he thankfully declined.

KUMAR PRAKASH RAO PATIL: He belongs to Poona. A youngster of only 11 years, he along with 3 other friends was enjoying a swim in the tank, of the Sir Parshuram Bhau College, during the Diwali holidays. At a depth of 12 feet, Ajit, one of the friends began to sink due to exhaustion. Prakash quickly dashed towards him and rescued him from a watery grave.

KUMAR RAMBHAU SHIVRAM HOLE: He is a 14 year old student from the district of Poona. He along with other schoolmates went to a river for a drink of water. A small child of 6 years slipped into the river and was carried away by the vigorous flow. The youngsters standing by ran back to the school to seek help but Shivram did no such thing. With great presence of mind, he jumped in and pulled back the little one to the shore, safe and sound.

KUMAR NETHAJI: He is a 12 years old youngster, from Trichi District, Madras. A younger school-mate of the 1st standard had fallen into a tank. He dived into the tank and unmindful of his own risk, he brought her back to safety.

BEST PRADHANS

(*BY OUR CORRESPONDENT*)

THANKS TO the ushering in of Panchayati Raj, Krishi Bhavan is no longer the close preserve of white-collared babus and experts it used to be in the past. Now one may often meet there the sturdy Pradhan from the Punjab wearing his turban and pyjama, rubbing shoulders with another from Kerala putting on his kurta and Mandu. The Pradhans,—the newly elected leaders of the villages from the far-flung corners of our country may be seen there every now and then .

On 9th September, 1962 one could meet the pick of the Indian village leadership there. Fourteen Pradhans, each representing the best village of the various States, and Union Territories of India, had come to the Krishi Bhavan to participate in the selection of the best village in the whole country. Though the selection of the best village at the National level had been carried on for the last several years, it was for the first time that the elected Panches had been associated with the selection. The association of the elected village representatives with the best villages is in the fitness of things since under the fast-spreading pattern of Panchayati Raj, the Panchayats have now been entrusted with the responsibility of developing the villages.

The Pradhans from the Best Village in ea S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Dev Also seen in the picture are Smt. Saroj M.Ps., who were members of t

Shri Amolak Ram receiving the certificate of merit from the Minister, Shri S. K. Dey, on behalf of village Sarsa which was declared to be the best in the whole country.

THE SCHEME

Under the Best Village competition scheme, each State first selects its best village in accordance with certain laid down criteria which among other items include adoption of improved farming practices, mobilising people's participation, improving health and sanitation, increasing financial resources and assets of the Panchayat, promoting co-operatives, admission of all the children of school-going age in the school and so on. The Central Selection Committee appointed by the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation selects the best village out of all the best villages already selected by each State. The selection Committee held interviews individually with the representatives of the best village from each State. Sarsa in Fatehpur Sikri Block of Uttar Pradesh was declared to be the best village in the whole country. Kiari in Himachal Pradesh was adjudged to be the best village amongst the Union Territories.

THE FUNCTION

A simple function was held in the evening to honour the representatives of the best villages at the National and Union Territories level. It had been drizzling all day long and so the function

& BEST VILLAGES

...each State pose for a photograph with Shri ...Development, Panchayati Raj & Co-operation. ...rojini Mahishi and Smt. Laxmikanthamma, ...f the Central Selection Committee.

could not be held as scheduled in the open spacious lawns of the Minister's bungalow. Instead, the ceremony was held in one of the Committee Rooms of the Krishi Bhavan. The gathering included the officers of the Ministry and the members of the Selection Committee which amongst others included Smt. Sarojini Mahishi, M. P. and Smt. T. Laxmikanthamma, M. P. The village representatives were: Sarv Shri Amolak Ram from Uttar Pradesh, Balanand Chauhan from Himachal Pradesh, Bhevane Venkatramiah from Andhra Pradesh, B. P. Singh from Bihar, Kanwarlal Naita from Madhya Pradesh, Jagan Nath Rao from Maharashtra, T. R. Lankeppanevar from Mysore, Ram Singh from Punjab, Madan Singh from Rajasthan, Kul Bahadur from West Bengal, Lange Ram from Delhi, V. Rathnasabapathi from Pondicherry, Ashutosh Mukerjee from Tripura and Basudev Pradhan from Orissa. The function was presided over by the Minister Shri S. K. Dey. After Shri M. M. K. Wali, Deputy Secretary had read the report of the findings of the Committee, the Minister gave the certificate of merit to the best village at the national level. In the absence of Shri Basti Ram Pradhan, the award was received by his son Shri Amolak Ram who is the Pradhan of the Nyaya Panchayat. Another certificate of merit for the best village at the Union Territories level was received by Shri Balanand Chauhan Pradhan of village Kiari. Prizes of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 1,000 were announced for the two villages respectively.

Shri Balanand Chauhan, Pradhan of village Kiari in Himachal Pradesh which was declared to be the best village at the Union Territories level, receiving a certificate of merit from the Minister Shri S. K. Dey.

THE INCENTIVE

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Shri Dey remarked that the prizes were given to honour the collective efforts of the village as a whole rather than an individual. He said, "A well-developed village represents the co-operative efforts of all sections of the village including the youth, women as well as children. Efforts of individuals do matter, particularly of the Pradhan, and the president of the co-operative and other functionaries,- officials as well as non-officials. But none of them, however outstanding, can claim individual credit for the development of the village as a whole." He further added that the Ministry had been considering a system of incentives and deterrents to be built into the Panchayati Raj pattern so that the pitfalls were avoided and the really good workers got necessary encouragement in their efforts. He continued, "We have a system of rewarding as well as punishing the Government functionaries

but not so the non-official representatives." The present function for giving award to the best village, he added, "is to some extent an effort aimed at accelerating the pace of good work by stimulating the competitive spirit amongst the village leaders." The Minister exhorted the representatives of the best villages to intensify their efforts and not to rest on their oars. He remarked, "Now that you have come into the lime light, groups of visitors on Bharat Darshan tour will be paying a visit to your villages and if what they see there disappoints them, it will be a reflection not only on you but also on those responsible for the selections". In the end, he complimented them by calling them the 'true sons of the soil' whose perseverance, wisdom and experience on the field had vouchsafed the progress of the countryside.

THE BEST VILLAGES

As I talked to the village leaders, I came to realise that every village had some outstanding achievement to its credit. Indeed, it was difficult to assess which village had lagged behind. Shri Amolak Ram who hailed from village Sarsa the best village at the national level, informed me how as a result of the village production plan in the formulation and implementation of which the service co-operative had also played its part, they had succeeded in producing on an average 39 mds. of wheat per acre in the village as a whole. About 60% of the total cultivated area of 1,100 acres had been brought under irrigation. The entire cultivated land had been saturated with improved seeds. "The entire marketable surplus", he said, "is being sold through the Marketing Society."

About village Kiari in Himachal Pradesh that stood first at the Union Territories level, its Sarpanch Shri Balanand Chauhan gave me the secret of its success. He said, "We have tried to make the maximum use of our cultivable land according to the cold and hilly climatic conditions obtaining there. Fruit-gardening and vegetable-growing is more paying than the cultivation of foodgrain crops. That is why, out of 355 acres of the cultivable area, no less than 315 acres is under fruit orchards; the rest being under potatoes and other vegetables." Continuing further, he told me that the total annual income of the village, from the sale of apples and potatoes was Rs. 3 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs respectively. "What about the small peasants? Are they also co-sharers in this prosperity?" I inquired. Shri Chauhan replied, "Yes. We have seen to it that the Harijans and other weaker sections have their own small gardens. Every house-holder has got a kitchen-garden. Improved varieties of fruit-plants have been supplied free of cost to them." The village though situated in the far-off, hilly region, cut off from the plains and big cities, is highly advanced from the point of view of education. More than 85% of the villagers are literate and 95% of the children of school-going age are admitted in the school.

Padavadlapudi was selected to be the best village of Andhra Pradesh. On inquiry, Shri Venktaramiah the Sarpanch told me that the panchayat had an annual income of over Rs. 30,000 per year and that it had collected cent per cent taxes. The Panchayat consisted of six persons belonging to the Congress party and four members to the Communist party. "Is there no conflict in the functioning of the Panchayat?" I asked. "No", came the reply, "Honest differences of opinion, we always have. But the Panchayat is functioning quite smoothly, and the interests of the village are never allowed to suffer. Here was a living example of a Panchayat which though based on party politics, functioned quite harmoniously!

Shri Kul Bahadur, Pradhan of village Paiyong from West Bengal was emphatic in his statement that as a result of the Community Development programme, the economic condition of the villagers had improved appreciably. They had resorted to poultry farming, dairy farming, cheese-making and vegetable growing in order to increase their income.

(*Continued on page* 13)

Integrated Services Scheme

SAFEGUARDING the well-being, education and development of children is the surest foundation for the future. Hitherto, family has been the most important unit which looked after the child, but due to the stresses and strains to which the Indian family has been subjected to in recent years, it becomes obligatory to provide welfare services for children, normal as well as affected—through outside agencies.

Uptill now child welfare services had been provided by medical and public health, education, social welfare and other agencies. There was no co-ordination between them. However, the personality of the child is to be viewed as one whole, and the aim of all our welfare schemes should be to bring about its maximum development. This is the genesis of the integrated services scheme.

With a view to provide every child from the conception stage till it attains the age of 16, the opportunity to grow into a healthy and useful citizen, it is proposed to establish demonstration projects under the integrated services scheme. Each project will cover a Community Development Block which has already been accepted as the unit for planning and development.

ORGANISATION

Although the project will be administered by the Social Welfare/Planning and Development Department of the State Government, yet the voluntary organisations engaged in the field of child welfare would be intimately associated with the working of the project. There will be a central co-ordinating council at the State level consisting of representatives from the various departments concerned and also representatives drawn from leading voluntary organisations. Since in most of the States, responsibility for developmental activities has already been handed over to Panchayat Samitis at the Block level, the organisation at the Block level for implementing this programme would be the Panchayat Samiti assisted by a functional committee to be set up for the purpose. At the Block level, as the B.D.O. himself may not be able to devote much time to the work connected with the project, he will be assisted by a new functionary namely, the Chief Child Welfare Organiser.

The selected block will be divided into four areas. The Chief Child Welfare Organisers would be assisted by 4 Child Welfare Organisers each of whom wil have jurisdiction of one of the four areas into which the Block is divided. There will be a small implementation committee for each of the areas, and the Child Welfare Organiser will be the Secretary of such a committee. In addition to the Chief Child Welfare Organiser and four Child Welfare Organisers, the scheme provides for the post of a Lady doctor who will function in co-operation with the medical staff of the Primary Health Centres and sub-centres existing in the project area.

At the village level, there will be need for functionaries like Bal Sevikas, Creche Workers, Gram Sevikas, Dais, etc., to implement the actual programmes. Such functionaries will be made available in the project by the State Departments and the State Social Welfare Board.

The Headquarters of the Demonstration Project shall be the headquarters of the Block. The Chief Child Welfare Organiser will have to be provided with some minimum staff at the headquarters.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY

To begin with, a preliminary survey will be carried out on the basis of family as the unit. Information will be collected about the various services already in existence in the area in the light of their adequacy or otherwise. Survey report will be placed before the central co-ordinating committee which will decide as to which services need to be started afresh and

(*Continued on page* 13)

Lok Sabha Questions & Answers

Below we give the gist of some of the Questions raised and their replies given in the last Session of the Lok Sabha.—Ed.

Q. Is more production of foodgrains the main object of Community Development Scheme? What is the increase in production of foodgrains during the last three successive years in the areas covered by Community Development Blocks ?

A. The main objective of the Community Development programme is to bring about all-sided development of the community but in view of the national priority, concentration of effort, for the present, is on increasing agricultural production.

According to the Seventh Evaluation Report (1960) of the Programme Evaluation Organization on Community Development Programme, there has been a general increase in the total agricultural output in Community Development Blocks. However, in view of the fact that the area under the Community Development Programme is constantly expanding and shall cover the entire country by October, 1963, no separate assessment of food production is made in respect of Community Development areas alone. An assessment of total agriculture production is made every year for the whole country.

Q. What will be the development pattern in Community Development programme after the second stage of Community Development blocks ?

A. No separate development pattern in Community Development Programme after the second stage of Community Development Blocks has been laid down. The development programmes as in stage II are to be continued by the State Government with its own resources and the departmental funds for development as also local resources that may be raised. By the time the Community Development Blocks complete their stage II, the system of channelising development expenditure through the Blocks would have been wel established and a nucleus provision through a schematic budget as during Stage I and Stage II of a Block is not considered necessary.

Q. What effective steps could be taken by the Government to keep political parties out of Panchayat elections ?

A. This is a matter essentially for political parties to consider.

Q. How many co-operative farming societies were organised during 1961-62 outside the pilot projects ?

A. 507 co-operative farming societies were organised during 1961-62 outside the pilot projects.

Q. What steps have been taken to de-officialise the co-operative movement ?

A. The extent and nature of official control over the movement varies from State to State depending upon the co-operative consciousness in general, the organisational strength of the movement, the availability of non-official leadership in requisite measure, the built-in provisions in the Co-operative Societies Acts, Rules and procedures, the working of these provisions in practice etc. The measures taken to de-officialise the movement are broadly as under :

(i) Federal organisations of co-operatives are being promoted.

(ii) A large-scale programme of education of members of co-operative societies has been launched. It is expected that the spread of co-operative education will result in a greater awareness in the non-officials of their responsibilities and rights.

(iii) The responsibility for training and education of officials and non-officials has been handed over to the National Co-operative Union at the national level. State governments have been advised to hand over this work at the State level to the State Co-operative Unions.

(iv) State Governments have been requested that Ministers and officials holding positions of responsibility in co-operative organisations should step down enabling non-officials to assume responsibility.

(v) State Governments have also been advised to enact statutory provisions which would promote assumption of responsibility by non-officials.

(vi) In some of the States certain functions of the Government in regard to co-operatives are being decentralised and given to Panchayati Raj institutions at the appropriate level.

Q. What broad principles are to be observed in setting up a local government Service to man Panchayati Raj institutions at State level?

A. The broad principles to be observed are:

(i) the staff working under the Panchayati Raj institutions should be categorised into cadres and placed directly under the control of the respective Panchayati Raj bodies.

(ii) Matters of recruitment and disciplinary control should be handled by independent Boards or Commissions.

(iii) Avenues for promotion in each cadre or from a lower to a higher cadre should also be provided as incentives for efficient work.

INTEGRATED SERVICES SCHEME

(Continued from page 11)

which of the existing services required improvement or expansion.

TRAINING

It will be ensured that the staff employed in the Project consists of persons of right calibre possessing sufficient background in child welfare work. The Block Development Officer and other staff of the Project will also be given a short orientation training. Other key persons to be employed in the projects, may also be given the necessary training.

BEST PRADHANS & BEST VILLAGES

(Continued from page 10)

Shri Megh Raj. Mukhiya, Vikas Mandal, Biranpur—a tribal village in Madhya Pradesh described to me how through shramdan, they had built a bund on *Kasakti* Nallah as a result of which 160 acres had been brought under irrigation. The Japanese method of paddy cultivation had been adopted by every Adivasi cultivator in the area. A lady worker, Sukhma Bai who had received training in the Japanese method of paddy cultivation did pioneering work in spreading this improved method.

Ch. Lange Ram of village Auchandi from Delhi described to me how their proximity to the I.A.R.I. had helped them to take advantage of the latest improved strains of wheat and other foodgrains. According to him, while cultivators in other States were still experimenting with the C 591 and C 518 strains of wheat, they had already discarded it in favour of still better strains viz. MP823/824 and C281 as a result of which average yield per acre has risen upto 45 mds. from 25 mds.

BRIGHT FUTURE

All the village leaders were unanimous in their opinion that things were improving rapidly as a result of the introduction of the Panchayati Raj. The decentralisation of power to the peoples' representatives had given a fillip to the mobilisation of local resources and the common man had begun to feel the glow of freedom since many of his difficulties such as getting the loans, seeds and fertilisers, in time, had been solved satisfactorily now. Although, in the initial stages, they might make mistakes here and there; on the whole, they were conscious of their new responsibilities and were discharging them with integrity and enthusiasm. They held out the hope that the Panchayati Raj had a bright future before it.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

DRIVE FOR TAX COLLECTION

A FAIRLY large number of Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh launched a special drive for tax collection and collected in full, arrears, current taxes and fees. 2,318 Panchayats succeeded in collecting cent per cent taxes during 1961-62 as against 1,363 Panchayats in 1960-61.

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HOME FOR ORPHANS

THE ZILA Parishad of Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh has decided to establish a home for orphans and destitutes which will take in 30 children in the first instance.

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ASSAM

DELEGATION OF POWERS

THE GOVERNMENT of Assam has delegated powers of the State Government under subsection I of Section 133 of the Assam Panchayat Act to the Deputy Commissioners and the Planning Officers of the Plains Districts. These powers relate to the inspection of immovable properties and to the calling for and inspection of any documents in the possession and control of Panchayati Raj bodies.

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CREATING REMUNERATIVE ASSETS

A PROVISION of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made in the current year's budget for Assam for issuing loans to Anchalik Panchayats for creation of remunerative assets.

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BIHAR

PANCHAYATS COLLECT REVENUE

IN BIHAR more than 200 Panchayats have been entrusted with revenue collection work and they are reported to be doing satisfactorily.

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GOA, DAMAN, DIU

PANCHAYATS TO BE FORMED

VILLAGE Panchayats will be established in Goa, Daman, and Diu in the near future.

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HIMACHAL PRADESH

TRAINING FOR PANCHAYAT OFFICIALS

THE PANCHAYATI Raj Training Institute was inaugurated by the Lt. Governor of Himachal Pradesh at Salogar near Solan in Himachal Pradesh. The Institute will run a 7-day course for Panchayat officials.

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JAMMU AND KASHMIR

STUDY TEAM SET UP

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Government have set up a committee headed by the State Minister for Food and Agriculture, to study the working of Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab, and to recommend a suitable set-up for the State.

* * * *

MADRAS

PANCHAYAT UNIONS ENTRUSTED INDUSTRIES PROGRAMME

THE MADRAS Government have issued orders, in consultation with the State Khadi and Village Industries Board, for entrusting the programme of development of village industries to the Panchayat Unions in November, 1961.

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BEST PANCHAYAT UNION

FOR THE year 1960-61 the Nilokotta Panchayat Union in Madurai district has been adjudged as the best administered Union in the Madras State. The Union will receive the State award, in the form of a shield.

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PROGRESS ASSISTANTS

MADRAS Government is thinking of abolishing the post of Progress Assistant in the block and replacing this by a clerk and to have a qualified statistician at the taluka level—roughly one for three blocks.

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EACH PANCHAYAT TO HAVE A RADIO SET.

THE STATE Government have issued orders for the purchase of 8,000 radio listening sets so that all the panchayats in the State will have a set each. Government will contribute 50% of the cost or upto a maximum of Rs. 185 whichever is less. The

balance amount will be found by the Panchayats. The sets would be available for being tuned to all wave-bands.

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AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

THE STATE Government has made available 25% subsidy for improved agricultural implements. The programme of intensive saturation was taken up in five districts last year and as many as 23,000 ploughs were distributed. It has been decided to extend this to all the districts this year with targets practically four times this figure.

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MAHARASHTRA

PANCHAYATI RAJ TRAINING CENTRES

THE MAHARASHTRA Government have finalised the arrangements for the establishment of ten Panchayati Raj Training Centres, one each in ten district under the auspices of non-official agencies. The training centres have started functioning from 1st September, 1962.

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PANCHAYATS TO KEEP ACCOUNTS IN CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

THE MAHARASHTRA Government have issued orders that the funds of the Zila Parishad and the Panchayat Samiti should be kept in the respective district central co-operatives. Under the instructions of the Government, the District Central Co-operative Banks are to be permitted over-drafts to the extent mutually agreed upon by the bank and the Panchayati Raj Organisations.

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LAND DEVELOPMENT BANKS

THE STATE Government are designating land Mortgage Banks as Land Development Banks. All long and medium term loans for all land improvement purposes (except soil conservation for the present) will be channelised through these banks. The elaborate procedure for verification of security has been done away with. The security will be calculated at the prescribed multiple of the land revenue.

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MYSORE

PANCHAYATI RAJ TRAINING CENTRES

THE MYSORE Government have sanctioned the establishment of four Panchayati Raj Training Centres at Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga and Dhawar.

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PANCHAYATS TO EXECUTE SCHEMES

THE MYSORE Government have transferred 30 plan schemes for execution, to Taluk Boards and Village Panchayats. Under another notification, local properties, such as open sites, grazing lands, fishing rights and stone and lime quarries, etc. are also vested in the village Panchayats.

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ORISSA

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

THE ORISSA Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad (Administration of Affairs of Panchayat Samiti) Rules, 1962, prescribe the relationship between the Samiti and the Gram Panchayats and lay down *inter-alia* (i) Administrative control of the Chairman over the Block Development Officers and officers of the Block; and (ii) supervisory powers of the Block Development Officer over Gram Panchayats.

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HONORARIUM FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN, ZILA PARISHAD

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN of the Zila Parishad in Orissa has been sanctioned an honorarium of Rs. 150 per month. The Chairman is already in receipt of an honorarium of Rs. 200 per month.

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BLOCK LEVEL CO-ORDINATION

THE ORISSA Government have decided, in the interest of proper-co-ordination at the block level, that all officers of the Development Departments at the Block level should be placed under the control of the Panchayat Samiti.

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FROM THE CENTRE

TAX-DEFAULTERS TO BE DISQUALIFIED

The suggestion that persons owing taxes to any of the Panchayati Raj bodies should be debarred from contesting elections to all Panchayati Raj institutions, has been made by the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation. Provision for debarring tax-defaulters from election to Panchayati Raj bodies already exists in several States like Gujarat, Madras and Maharashtra.

The need for providing adequate resources to the Panchayats has been emphasised in the Third Five Year Plan and has been reiterated by the Annual Conference on Community Development held in 1961 and 1962. A suggestion already made was that certain items of taxation should be made obligatory and the failure to levy and realise them should be regarded as non-fulfilment by the Panchayats of their primary obligations. It was also suggested that names of the tax-defaulters might be mentioned in the meetings of the Gram Sabha so that it could exert its influence in securing full collection of taxes.

The Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation has suggested to the other States that suitable amendments may be made in relevant Acts wherever necessary for implementing these recommendations.

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STUDY TEAM MEETS

Inaugurating the first meeting of the Study Team on Resources of Panchayati Raj bodies, Shri S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation, emphasised that the ultimate paymaster in the country was the Indian villager who laboured and contributed to production. The bulk of the developmental programmes in the future will have to be financed to an increasing extent by the people taxing themselves. An institutional device for this was available in the Panchayati Raj bodies and the willingness and desire for raising the resources would grow as the people realised the vast possibilities of development. Many States are now transferring resources to Panchayati Raj Institutions for meeting the responsibilities delegated to them. Here, Shri Dey emphasised, it was very necessary to ensure that the resources transferred were of a flexible nature and could be developed to support the expanding responsibilities themselves. Without the distinction of committed expenditure and developmental expenditure, transfer of responsibilities and resources would not help the Panchayati Raj bodies to grow. Shri Dey also felt that the delegation of responsibilities should ultimately grow into actual devolution. A vast force was emerging in rural India numbering from two to three million panches. The growth of our democracy and our economic salvation were involved in a very comprehensive way in the increasing accession of responsibilities to this force. Concluding, Shri Dey also stressed the importance of helping the Panchayati Raj bodies to build up permanent economic assets. These would represent the nucleus resources of what could be called the public sector of these institutions.

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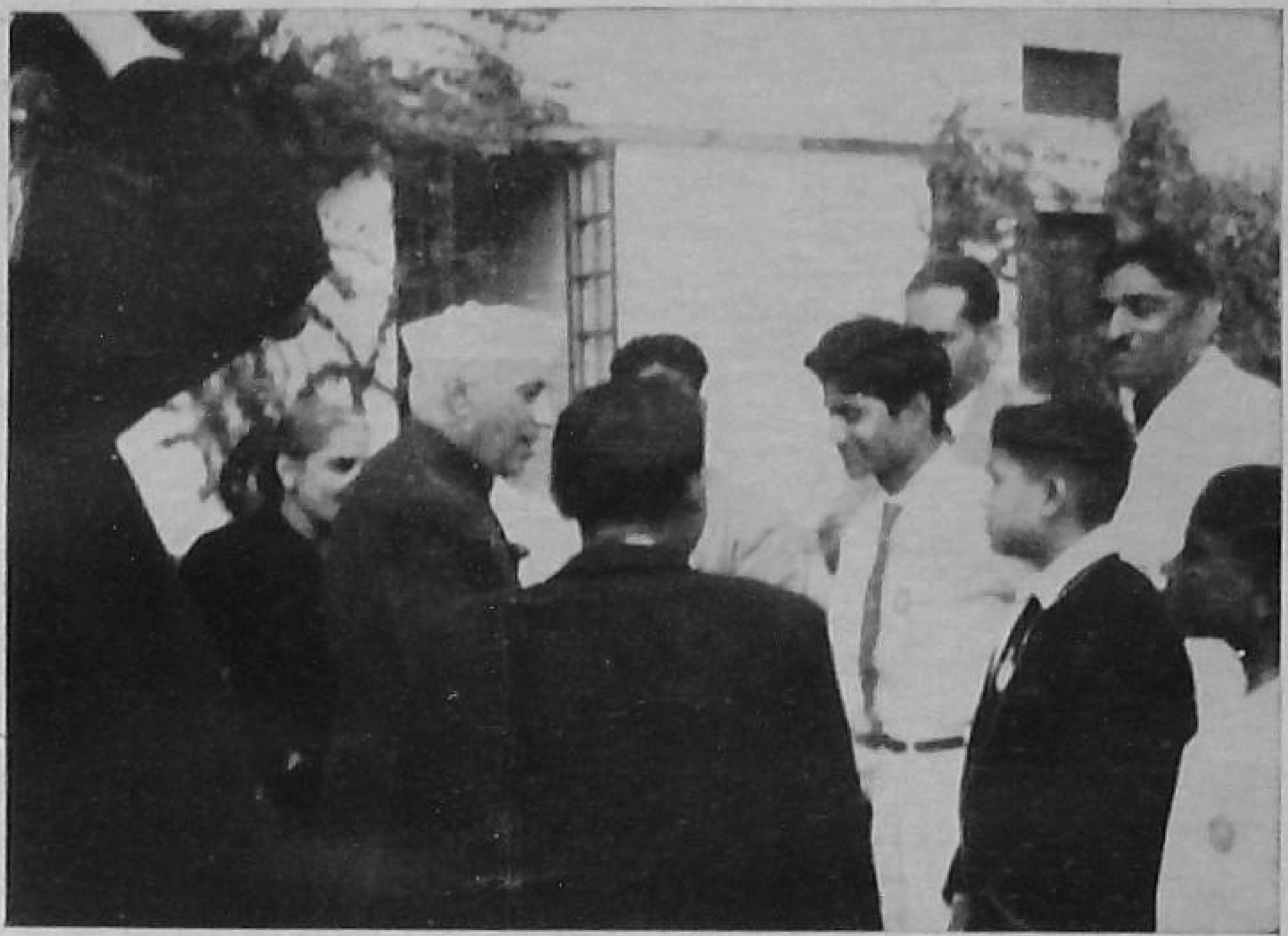
PANCHAYATS AND WEAKER SECTIONS

The suggestion that the majority of the members of the special sub-committees of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads, which have been set up in several States to look after the welfare of the weaker sections of the village community, should belong to the weaker sections, has been made by the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation to State Governments. Where the members of the Samiti or the Parishad belonging to these sections do not constitute a majority of the sub-committee, it has been suggested that resort should be made to co-opt non-members belonging to the weaker sections to give them a majority.

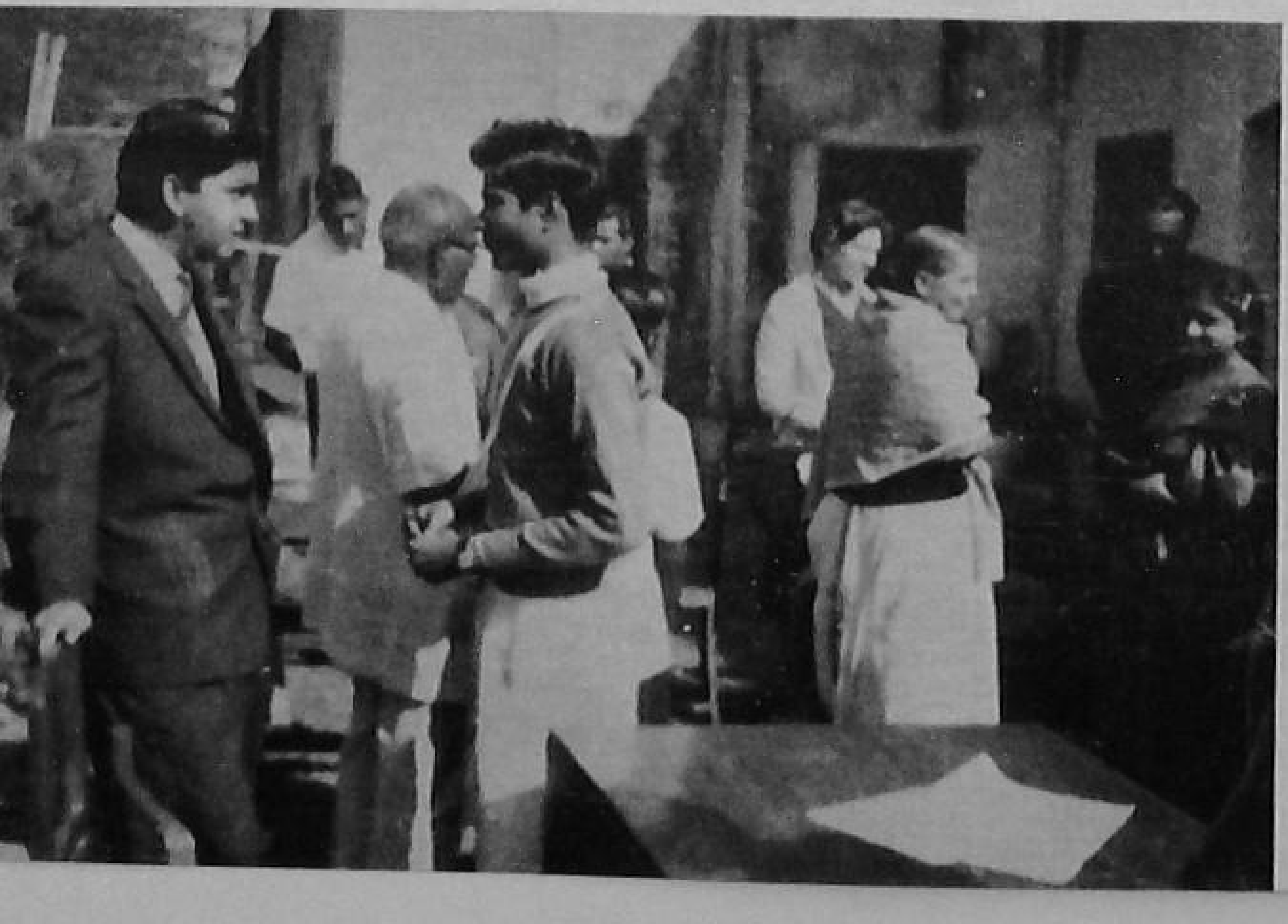
NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS 1961

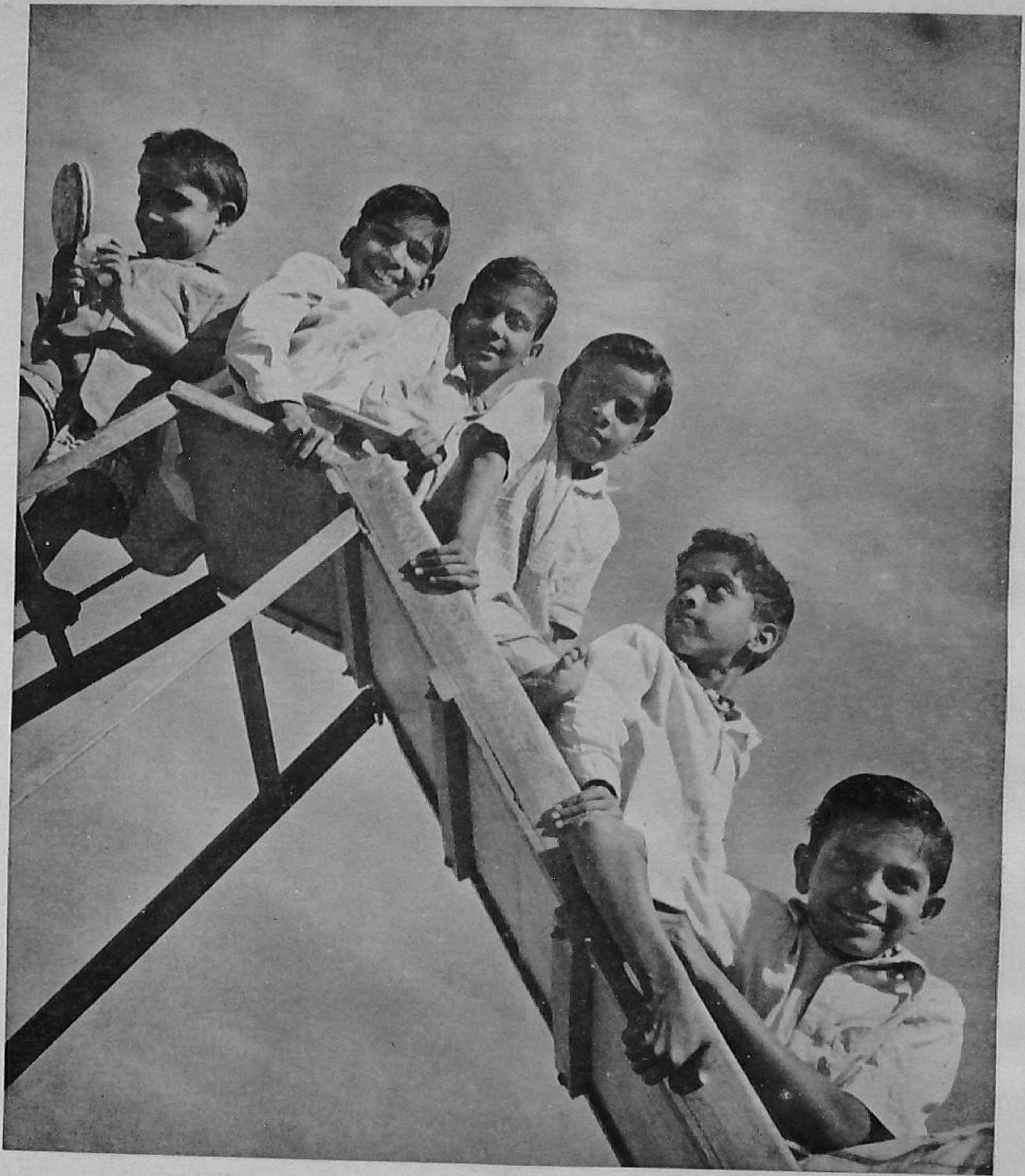


Some of the award-winning children, chatting with the Prime Minister.
(From R to L) *Kumar M. Nethaji (Madras); Kumar Prakash Rao Patil (Maharashtra); Kumar Narasimha Rao (Andhra).*

(From L to R) *Kumar Abdul Hamid (Orissa); Kumari Bishnupriya (Orissa); Kumar M. Nethaji (Madras); Kumar Thomas George (Kerala); Kumar Narasimha Rao (Andhra).*

Shri Narasimha Rao (Andhra)
(Standing in the middle)





Children are at their best when at play. They are enjoying themselves in a recreation centre provided in a Balwadi in Madhya Pradesh.

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